

*Kurt Van Schandung; (Lupic Tico Bu); Mr. Tico; Mr. Tico; Mr. Tico*  
*Mr. Tico; Mr. Tico; Mr. Tico*

SPEECH MADE IN HONOUR OF MR. GEORGE BIZOS ON THE EVE OF HIS RETIREMENT  
AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF SAHETI DELIVERED AT THE DEBUTANTES ANNUAL  
BALL - CARLTON CENTRE, SATURDAY 27TH MAY, 1989.

Honoured Guests, Friends,

There is no doubt that all of us present here this evening know  
of Saheti and <sup>many</sup> a lot of us have a direct connection with the building  
and running of Saheti.

To some, it is simply the Hellenic school in the Republic of South  
Africa. To some it is one of the best private schools. To others  
it is a school well planned, well designed, well built. For most  
of us, it is Hellenic education in the Republic of South Africa.  
Hellenic <sup>community</sup> schooling at its best, with a building style and quality of  
education second to none.

On numerous occasions I have referred to Saheti as the "Parthenon of  
Hellenism in South Africa". The school has become the Hellenic flagship.  
It makes us proud. It depicts the interest, quality and the  
importance with which Hellenism views education. The process to the  
well-being and preparedness of our youth.

No matter how we wish to embrace Saheti, no matter from which point of  
view we look at Saheti, all this is synonymous with George Bizos.

*I agree Mr. Ambassador*  
BIZOS IS SAHETI - SAHETI IS BIZOS.

An investment of millions has taken place during the most difficult  
political and economic era of the Republic of South Africa. Developed  
on ground which those before us in their wisdom purchased in 1956, for  
<sup>the erection</sup> development of a school for the Hellenic youth and which has now  
materialized.

This reflects an investment by the Hellenes in the future of the Republic of South Africa. What better way is there than to show your confidence in your country than by making investments such as Saheti for your youth.

We are proud that this educational institute is respected and used by all sectors of education.

In its brief history of schooling, it has achieved excellent results. Thanks to the soundness of a very good academic staff lead by the principal Mr. Morgan Ellis, the Head of the nursery school Mrs. Janks, the Head of our Greek department and ~~vice principal~~ <sup>Senior Deput Head</sup> Mrs. Crystallides. Thanks to all those who have served on the Board from time to time, and all those who have joined sub-committees to help build Saheti. ~~ALL WHO HAVE ASSISTED OR CONTRIBUTED IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.~~ YES ALL HAVE HELPED BUILD SAHETI. But let us remember that we have built it with the guidance and leadership of George Bizos.

I congratulate and thank Mrs. Makrides and her ladies committee for this wonderful and successful occasion this evening, and for allowing me to use it as a forum to express these few words of gratitude to our friend Mr. Bizos.

We have seen a spirit developed among our youth that makes them proud to belong and want to go to Saheti. We are pleased and privileged to have the children of other language and race groups attend our school. Thanks to the foresight of our Chairman.

Let us examine what inspired all of us to join hands and help build Saheti. Dear friends nothing else but the dedication, the belief, the confidence, the inspiration, the enthusiasm, the hardwork of one George Bizos. The man who one can say caused the re-birth of Saheti in 1968. The man who inspired so many of us to make Saheti a reality. The man who taught us not to take actions that would be counter productive when planning, building or running Saheti. The man who taught us to embrace those who were full of criticism and to give them

the opportunity to also become participants in Saheti.

Believe me Ladies and Gentlemen, I have had the privilege to see these virtues of our Chairman Mr. George Bizos at work. I was the first Honorary secretary of his Board after a telephone call early in 1968 when he asked me what we were going to do about that vacant piece of ground - well the results we are all aware of.

A privilege to work with an untiring man. An honour for all of us

to have been guided and lead by this wonderful person George Bizos.

*A MAN WHO although reaching enviable HEIGHTS in his profession CONTINUED to find time for SAHETI. A Reflection of the human achievements of this man.*

Not for a moment are we unmindful of the sacrifices that had to be made by the Bizos family. The children - and in particular Mrs. Rita Bizos who stood by her husband and Saheti at all times. Thank you Mrs. Bizos for your sacrifice and for having lent us your husband to develop Saheti.

A man dedicated to freedom in all respects, a man who appreciates the beauty of the cultures, the love and respect of the Greek letter and philosophy. A person who not only confined himself to achieving the teaching of the Greek language and culture at Saheti, but the teaching of Greek at the University of the Witwatersrand. The man who lead the team in the introduction of Greek at matric level which we shall soon have.

YES MY DEAR FRIEND GEORGE, IT IS SAID, NOBODY IS INDISPENSIBLE - but rest assured what you have <sup>done for</sup> given to Hellenism in the Republic of South Africa,

what you have given to our society by helping us retain our culture and *Greek Heritage is indisputable & undeniable* education in South Africa ~~IS INDISPENSIBLE~~.

If only many of us had these facilities in our youth. Many a time you would say to me "well Peter - Saheti was not built in time for our children - but let us pray that our grandchildren will at least get the benefit of our efforts".



Well we know that so much is your love for and confidence in Saheti that on the eve of your announcement to retire as Chairman, your grandson was registered in order to be timeously accepted into the nursery school. Be at ease - I have already started canvassing and lobbying to have your grandson accepted at Saheti and not hold the fact against him that his grandfather is George Bizos.

Mr. Bizos you served Saheti for 20 years, but rest assured that it would take more than 20 years to express in words our gratitude to you.

You have created a monument. You have lead us to develop an institution that is full of life. An institution, a monument that will be on going and that will educate generations of children. The education of the children and the children themselves, will be the monument and acknowledgement of what you have done for Saheti and in turn for them. *Nothing can replace this honest acknowledgment.*

Mr. Bizos, may you continue to meet with success in whatever you do in the future. I have no doubt about that you will continue to involve yourself as always in order to promote Hellenism in the Republic. *We will always need you. Thank you.*

*AM*  
*27/5/89*